

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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SMITH RECEIVES AWARD FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

INDIANAPOLIS – On Tuesday, State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary) received the Welsh-Bowen Distinguished Public Official award from the Hoosiers for Higher Education state advisory committee.

The Welsh-Bowen award is named for former governors Matthew Welsh and Otis Bowen, both former co-chairs of Hoosiers for Higher Education.

The award was presented at the Hoosiers for Higher Education's 14th annual Statehouse visit. During this visit, members of this organization talk with lawmakers and ask for their support for state-supported colleges and universities.

Smith has been actively working to better in education as a legislator since 1990. As a member of the House Education Committee, Smith is able to make practical and beneficial contributions based on his years as a teacher, principal and professor. He has also fought for more funding for K-12 schools and the universities and colleges of Indiana.

Smith is an associate professor of education at IU Northwest, an active member of the IU Alumni Association and was selected as IU Northwest's Distinguished Educator. In addition, Smith has a doctorate in education from IU.

"I was very surprised and flattered to receive this award," said Smith. "It makes one feel both honored and humbled to be recognized by the university from which one matriculated. Honored because the award was granted by such a venerable institution and humbled because I have received this award from the hands of those I looked up to as a student."